resources. Ministry has not done any assessment on wastage of fuels on National Highways.

(c) Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojna (PMGSY), being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, all villages having habitations of 1000 and above would be connected by all weather roads by 2003 and villages having habitations above 500 would be connected by all weather roads by 2007.

. (d) The details of works undertaken on Rural Roads in the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal are as under

SI.No.	State	Proposals approved		No. Of works completed	Expenditure upto Jan. 2003 (Rs. in crore)
		No.	Amount (Rs. in crore)		
1.	Himachal Pradesh	273	192.36	124	106.15
2.	Uttaranchal	161		22	48.27

Upgradation of Coastal Highways of Gujarat

2455. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA: DR. AX PATEL:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though Gujarat has 25 per cent of the country's coast line with many ports, the coastal highways along this coast has not been upgraded to National Highway;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether Government consider the necessity of upgrading the coastal highways of Gujarat from the defence point of view;

(d) if so, the time-frame for the purpose; and

(e) what consideration has been made in respect of the State Government's proposal for upgradation of 13 State Highways totalling 2800 Kms. on priority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURH: (a) and (b) The declaration of any road as National Highway depends not only on the consideration that it runs along with coast but on several other considerations including traffic needs, inter-se priority on all India basis and availability of resources. Notwithstanding the above, a length of approximately 362 kms. running along the coast line in Gujarat has already been converted into National Highway.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) All the proposals for conversion of State Highways into National Highways have been returned to the State Government of Gujarat. Presently there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constraints. The Government may, however, consider conversion of very limited lengths of a few State Highways into National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

Express Highway from Kasaragode toThiruvananthapuram

2456. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct an Express Highway from Kasaragode to Thiruvananthapuram; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including employment opportunities and spur in the economic development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) No, Sir. Ministry has no plan to construct an Express Highway from Kasaragode toThiruvananthapuram in Kerala.

(b) Does not arise.